

DATE: 11/5/73

DISCIPLINE: ENVIRONMENT

TITLE: APPLICATION OF REMOTE SENSING  
IN THE STUDY OF VEGETATION AND  
SOILS IN IDAHO (MMC #313-3)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

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SUMMARY: Successful separation between basin big sagebrush  
and mountain sagebrush types was achieved by manual interpretation  
of color enhanced early summer ERTS imagery. Whether the dif-  
ference in reflectance between the two sagebrush types is the result  
of differences in reflectance of the two subspecies of sagebrush  
involved or to their associated understory has not been ascertained  
to date.

A vegetation type map and a soil association map of southwestern  
Idaho are being produced by manual interpretation of color enhanced  
imagery supplemented with information obtained from ground truths.  
Imagery obtained during spring, summer and fall has proved to be  
necessary for vegetational interpretation. Legend classes for the  
vegetation maps follow the classification format developed by Poulton  
(1973), without modification up to and including his fourth level of  
classification. The soil association map is being developed from  
the combined interpretation of observable soil reflectance charac-  
teristics and associated vegetation, landform, precipitation and  
elevation information.

In conjunction with the development of vegetation types and soil  
association maps, overlays of annual precipitation and elevation  
were reproduced at 1:250,000 scale.

Literature Citation

Poulton, C. E. 1973. A scheme for the uniform mapping and  
monitoring of earth resources and environmental  
complexes using ERTS-1 imagery. Type II Progress  
Report No. 2. Contract Number NA55-21830. Earth  
Sat. Proj. G-072. GSFC ID:PR 534 and SR 275.

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